
Regional Council Activity Report

April 28, 2004



Executive Director's Report

On May 4th and 5th, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) began their triennial planning review of the MAG transportation planning process.

The federal agencies conduct the certification process every three years to ensure that MAG is implementing its planning process in accordance with all applicable federal laws, and that MAG's work program is based on sound financial analysis and fiscal planning principles.

The review ensures that MAG activities are consistent with the mission of the MPO, and that the agency is producing work products as required in federal transportation legislation and identified as US Department of Transportation planning emphasis areas.

In their preliminary findings, no compliance deficiencies were found. The review team praised MAG for its accomplishments in many areas, including its Data Partnership Project, interactive mapping on the Web site, efforts in public involvement and elderly mobility, and for its air quality efforts resulting in continued clean data for ozone and carbon monoxide. Also cited as positive were the regional approach to transit systems and the inclusion of the business community on the Transportation Policy Committee.

The reviewers noted that no corrective actions were warranted, but did recommend several improvements, such as emphasizing safety planning to reduce the number of fatalities in the region.

It was gratifying to see MAG continue to excel despite the many challenges that arise when operating in a region of rapid population growth. Our success is due to the cooperation and involvement of our member agencies in implementing MAG policies, as well as to a professional staff that includes MAG and member agency employees. Thank you for helping to make our certification process a success.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.



Regional Council Meeting Report for April 28, 2004

TIP Amendment Approved

The MAG Regional Council approved an amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment includes restructuring the Rubberized Asphalt (Quiet Pavement) Pilot Program, adding a locally funded bridge replacement project in Phoenix in FY 2004, and adding two Enhancement Fund projects in Phoenix in FY 2005.

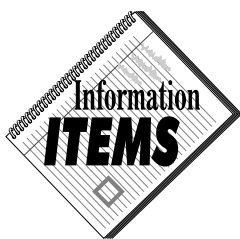
All of the changes are regarded as minor revisions or as exempt projects for which no air quality conformity is required. MAG did conduct an air quality consultation on the amendment, during which agency and public comments on the amendment were solicited. Public comments were received and transmitted to the Regional Council, which then approved the TIP amendment.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, at (602) 254-6300.

MAG Budget Nearing Final Approval

Each year, the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed incrementally in conjunction with member agency and public input. The Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies and approved by the Regional Council in May. A presentation was given to the Regional Council outlining major projects in the budget and updating changes made since the March presentation of the budget. The proposed budget shows total projected revenues and expenditures of \$14.8 million, which is about 24 percent lower than the 2004 budget. This reduction is due to the completion of several consultant projects in 2004.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Annual Report on the MAG Regional Freeway Program

The MAG Regional Council was given a presentation summarizing the Annual Report for the MAG Regional Freeway Program. The Annual Report is required under state law and is one of the safeguards to ensure public accountability regarding the Regional Freeway Program. The MAG Regional

Freeway Program is in fiscal balance, meaning that all projects currently planned should be completed with the available resources. The Annual Report provides an independent review of the fiscal status of the MAG Regional Freeway Program. Since the report was first issued in 1992, the Regional Freeway Program has been in fiscal balance and has met the construction schedules.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Nominating Committee Named

Each April, the Chair of the Regional Council appoints a five-member Nominating Committee from the Regional Council. The Nominating Committee is charged with developing a slate of seven candidates to serve as the Executive Committee for the next year, including Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Past Chair, and three members-at-large.

The 2004 Nominating Committee will include: Mayor Steven Berman, Town of Gilbert, who will serve as chair of the committee; Mayor Boyd Dunn, City of Chandler; Mayor Vinicio Alvarez, Town of Guadalupe; Mayor Lon McDermott, Town of Wickenburg; and Mayor Bryan Hackbarth, Town of Youngtown.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Desert Peaks Awards

In June, partnerships and individuals in five categories will be honored for their commitment to improving the region through cooperative efforts. The sixth Desert Peaks Awards will be held June 23, 2004 in conjunction with the Maricopa Association of Governments Annual Meeting. The event will be held at the Arizona Club, which is located in the Bank One Building, 201 N. Central, Suite 3700. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with the awards program at 6:15 p.m.

The awards recognize partnerships or individuals that have demonstrated outstanding regional cooperation, resulting in a better use of resources and service delivery to citizens. Awards will be presented in the categories of Public Partnership, Public-Private Partnership, Professional Service, Regional Partnership and Regional Excellence. A special recognition award, the "Summit Award," will be presented to those involved in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Costs of the event are being offset through sponsorships. Sponsors include the Arizona Republic; Associated General Contractors; Bank of America; Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona; e-group; Kimley-Horn & Associates; Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander, P.A.; Pinnacle West Capital Corporation; and Salt River Project.

The judging panel for the 2004 Desert Peaks Awards will include Tom Ambrose, Senior Vice President Public Affairs, Phoenix Suns; Anna Maria Chavez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Governor's Office; Dr. Larry Christiansen, President, Mesa Community College; Dr. Lattie Coor, Chairman and CEO, Center for the Future of Arizona; James Creedon, Retired Brigadier General, Landry, Creedon & Associates; Sandra Hicks, Executive Director, Challenger Space Center; Joel Nilsson, Editorial Writer, The Arizona Republic; and Mary Jo Waits, Associate Director, Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.

MAG to Host Booths at Special Events

MAG will host a booth at the Second Annual Fun Day, May 22, 2004, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at Indian School Steele Park, located at Central Avenue and Indian School in Phoenix. The event is sponsored by Touchstone Behavioral Health to provide information to the community about resources available to them through a network of service providers and community organizations and agencies. More than 1,000 people attended last year and more are expected this year.

MAG will also host a MAG at the Mall event at the Metrocenter Mall (9617 N. Metro Parkway, Phoenix) on June 12th at 11:00 a.m. MAG staff, in cooperation with Valley Metro and ADOT, will provide informational materials about MAG and the Regional Transportation Plan.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include an Update on Air Quality Issues; approval of the FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget; and a Legislative Update.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.